GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4530
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
REIMBURSEMENT TO PENSIONERS
SAMUDRALA VENUGOPAL CHARY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of applications from Central Government Pensioners in Delhi are pending with CGHS for medical reimbursement for the last 4-5 months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number thereof, till date;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the hardship being faced by the Pensioners who are too old and unable to approach the CGHS Office frequently to find out the fate of their pending bills;

(d) whether Pensioners are informed in case their medical bills are considerably delayed;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b): Reimbursement of medical expenses of pensioner beneficiaries of CGHS is made from the budget allotted under the Sub-Head Professional Services(PS) for CGHS.The amount of budget allotted under the said Sub-Head during the year 2002-2003 for CGHS Delhi has exhausted due to the following reasons:-

(1) Upward revision of the ceiling rates for various medical treatment procedures/tests/investigations in the private hospitals/ Diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS Delhi vide Dept. of Health`s O.M. dated 7.9.2001 as compared to the earlier ceiling rates circulated vide O.M. dated 18.9.96.

(2) Recognition of 67 private Hospitals and Diagnostic Centres under CGHS Delhi vide Dept. of Health`s O.Ms. dated 7.9.2001 15.3.2002, 6.5.2002, 14.5.2002, 2.8.2002 and 26.8.2002, as compared to only 24 private hospitals/ diagnostic centres which were earlier recognised vide O.M. dated 18.9.96.

(3) The conditions contained in O.M. dated 7.9.2001 require that the private hospitals/ diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS Delhi have to provide credit facility to the pensioner beneficiaries based upon valid permission and that their hospital cannot charge more than the ceiling rates fixed for the various medical procedures/tests/ investigations under CGHS. Therefore, the preference of the pensioner beneficiaries of CGHS to take treatment/ investigations in these recognised private hospitals has increased tremendously and many pensioners who had not opted for CGHS after retirement have started to obtain CGHS pensioner cards and avail CGHS facilities.

A total of 2,838 medical claims received by CGHS Delhi during the period 1.8.2002 to 30.11.2002 are pending for want of funds under the relevant budget Sub-Head. The month-wise break-up of pending medical claim bills is as under:-

August, 2002	680
September, 2002	758
October, 2002	677
November, 2002	723
Total	2,838

(c)to(e): Medical claims of pensioners are generally cleared in 6 to 8 weeks time subject to availability of necessary funds and subject

to claim papers preferred by the pensioners found complete and in order.

It is not a common practice to send a written communication to the CGHS pensioner beneficiaries about the status of their medical claims.

The Medical Officers and staff of the CGHS are available on telephone and information/ clarification sought by them is provided to them over the telephone and at the Information and Facilitation Centre of the CGHS at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.

(f): In addition to the Budget allotted under the Sub-Head Professional Services to CGHS Delhi from which reimbursement of medical claims to pensioner beneficiaries is made, an additional amount of Rs.3.50 crore was sanctioned through internal adjustment (Rs.1.50 crore in August, 2002 and Rs.2.00 crore in November, 2002) to make reimbursement to the pensioner beneficiaries.